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Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In accordance with Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the joint letter of the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council dated 15 December 2015 based on General Assembly resolution 69/321, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, I have the honour to present the candidature of Danilo Türk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia, for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex).

(*Signed*) Andrej **Logar**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 3 February 2016 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Following the joint letter by the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council of 15 December 2015, I have the honour to present the candidature of Danilo Türk, former President of the Republic of Slovenia, for the post of United Nations Secretary-General.

Mr. Türk is an internationally renowned political figure, a diplomat and professor of international law with immense political and international experience. His work testifies to his strong, decades-long commitment to the United Nations: throughout the years, he has served in the Organization's major bodies and devoted considerable attention to multilateral affairs during his term as President of the Republic of Slovenia (2007-2012).

He was Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs (2000-2005), appointed by the then United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Before that, he served eight years as Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations in New York and was twice President of the United Nations Security Council during Slovenia's non-permanent membership (1998-1999).

Throughout his career at the United Nations, he was closely involved in the efforts for the Organization's reforms, such as the creation of the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2005-2006. He was also a member of several United Nations expert bodies in the field of human rights.

At present, Mr. Türk is an active member of the Club de Madrid, the organization of former, democratically elected presidents and prime ministers. He is Chairman of the Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Global Fairness Initiative, a Washington-based non-governmental organization dedicated to economic and social development projects in developing countries. He is also a visiting professor at the Columbia University School of Law, New York.

Further details about Mr. Türk's career are available in the enclosed biography (see enclosure).

I am convinced that Mr. Türk is an eminently qualified candidate for the post of United Nations Secretary-General. Given his professional background and vast experience, he would significantly contribute to the work of the United Nations in these challenging times, which require comprehensive dedication to all elements of the global mission of the United Nations.

I thank you for all your endeavours to set in motion the selection and appointment process for the next United Nations Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations, guided by the

principles of transparency and inclusivity and steered by the goal to appoint the best possible candidate for this position of great importance.

I should be grateful if this candidature would be brought to the attention of all United Nations Member States.

(*Signed*) Karl **Erjavec**
Deputy Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Danilo Türk

Education and academic career

Danilo Türk was born on 19 February 1952 in Maribor, Slovenia, where he completed primary and secondary education. Having graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, in 1975, he entered the University of Belgrade, Serbia, where he received his Master's Degree in Law in 1978. He then returned to Ljubljana and began teaching international law at the Faculty of Law. During this time, his work was primarily focused on the issues of national minorities. In 1982, he received a PhD from the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana for his doctoral thesis entitled "The principle of non-intervention in international relations and in international law".

Mr. Türk pursued his academic career at the Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, becoming assistant professor in 1982, then associate professor in 1987, and finally full professor of international law in 1995. From 1983 to 1992, he headed the University's Institute of International Law and International Relations. During this period, he focused on research work and teaching, as well as on the efforts to promote human rights protection.

Human rights activities

Drawing on his research work and experience, in 1987, Mr. Türk put forward the initiative to create the Council for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Slovenia, an independent body that laid the foundations for the subsequent legislative work and advocacy for human rights in Slovenia. The Council was established in early 1988, and Mr. Türk was appointed its Vice-President. In 1991, he drafted the chapter on human rights for the Constitution of the newly independent Republic of Slovenia.

The beginnings of his international engagement in the field of human rights can be traced back to his student days in the mid-1970s. Since 1975, he worked closely with Amnesty International and advised in cases involving human rights violations in the former Yugoslavia.

In 1982, he became a member of the United Nations Working Group of Experts on the Right to Development. In 1985, he drafted the text of the Declaration on the Right to Development, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1986.

From 1984 to 1992, he served as an independent expert on the United Nations Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. In this framework, he prepared a report on the right to freedom of opinion and expression and a series of reports on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. In 1990, he was Chairman of the Subcommission.

Several years later, he was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Committee, established under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and served as a member from 1996 to 1998.

Diplomatic career

After Slovenia's declaration of independence in June 1991, Mr. Türk took on an active role in the country's diplomatic activities. In July and August 1991, Slovenia's then Foreign Minister authorized him to represent the country, which at that time had not yet achieved worldwide recognition, in contacts with representatives of the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe in Geneva. From September 1991 to August 1992, he was a member of the Slovenian delegation at the Conference on Yugoslavia. On behalf of Slovenia, he drafted a number of memorandums for the Conference's Arbitration Commission, known as the Badinter Commission, whose advisory opinions defined the legal framework for State succession to the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

In August 1992, Mr. Türk was appointed Slovenia's first ambassador to the United Nations in New York. He set up the Slovenian Permanent Mission to the United Nations and developed a system of activities within the United Nations General Assembly, with particular emphasis on political and security issues, as well as human rights and humanitarian assistance.

From 1996 to 1997, he successfully led Slovenia's campaign for non-permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council. Subsequently, he served as the country's representative on the Security Council (1998-1999). During that period, he dealt with the issues of Kosovo, Iraq, Libya, East Timor, Angola, Sierra Leone and Congo, among others. He also chaired the Security Council's Sanctions Committee on Libya (Lockerbie). Furthermore, he presided over the United Nations Security Council in August 1998 and November 1999. At that time, the crises in Iraq, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and East Timor were particularly intense.

Assistant Secretary-General

Following the successful conclusion of Slovenia's term as non-permanent member of the Security Council, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Mr. Türk Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs.

For over five years, his tasks at United Nations Headquarters focused on analytical and advisory activities concerning crisis situations around the world, including the Balkans, particularly Kosovo and Macedonia, Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iraq, Myanmar, North Korea, East Timor, Colombia, Haiti and Venezuela.

As Assistant Secretary-General, he was also involved in a number of the Organization's projects, with particular focus on the strengthening of the United Nations activities for the prevention of armed conflicts, United Nations participation in the activities of newly emerged and restored democracies, cooperation with the Community of Democracies, and the preparation of reports on the responsibility to protect.

He was also actively engaged in reform activities, particularly those leading to the creation of the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2006.

President of the Republic of Slovenia

Having spent 13 years in New York, Mr. Türk returned to Slovenia in the summer of 2005. He resumed teaching international law and related subjects at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ljubljana. From May 2006 to December 2007, he served as the Faculty's Vice-Dean.

Mr. Türk has published over 100 articles in various law journals and three books. His latest work, entitled *The Foundations in International Law*, was published in 2007 (in Slovene) and has been translated into Hungarian, Czech and Russian. The second, expanded edition was published in 2015.

On 11 November 2007, he was elected the third President of the Republic of Slovenia and was inaugurated on 22 December 2007. He concluded his five-year term of office on 22 December 2012.

Post-presidential career

Currently, Mr. Türk enjoys the status of former President of the Republic of Slovenia. He is a member of the Club de Madrid, a non-governmental organization of former, democratically elected Heads of State and Government.

Since 2014, he has been the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Global Fairness Initiative, a Washington-based non-governmental organization devoted to innovative projects fostering greater fairness in development and overcoming poverty.

On 16 November 2015, he was appointed Chairman of the newly established Global High-level Panel on Water and Peace.

Mr. Türk is also emeritus professor of law at the University of Ljubljana, visiting professor of law at Columbia Law School in New York and non-resident senior fellow of the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China, in Beijing.

Languages

In addition to Slovene, his mother tongue, Dr Türk speaks English, French and Serbo-Croatian.

Orders and decorations

- Knight Grand Cross, Most Honourable Order of the Bath, United Kingdom (2008)
- Grand Cross with Diamonds, Order of the Sun of Peru (2008)
- Commander, First Class, Order of the White Rose of Finland, Finland (2010)
- Knight Grand Cross, Order of Saint-Charles, Monaco (2011)
- Knight Grand Cross with Cordon, Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, Italy (2011)
- Grand Star, Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria, (2011)
- Grand Cross, Royal Norwegian Order of St Olav, Norway (2011)
- Kt Grand Cross, Order of the Falcon, Iceland (2011)

Awards and prizes

- Gold medal, Széchenyi Scientific Society, Hungary (2008)
- Arthur J. Goldberg Award, Touro Law College, United States of America (2008)
- Honorary Professor of the Academy of Public Administration, Astana, Kazakhstan (2009)
- Ilyas Afandiyev International Prize, Azerbaijan (2010)
- Honorary Doctorate, University of Szeged, Hungary (2010)
- Honorary Doctorate, V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Ukraine (2011)
- Honorary Doctorate, Moscow State Institute for International Relations, Russian Federation (2013)
- Honorary Doctorate, Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary (2015)

Initiatives and projects

In 2009, Mr. Türk launched a project aimed at providing rehabilitation for child victims of armed conflict in the Gaza Strip. In this context, he has funded and organized rehabilitation for 120 children from the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, in 2010, he founded Let Them Dream — Danilo Türk Foundation, which is devoted to providing assistance to children who have been victims of violence.